

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 2021

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SCAN ME



PAGE A3
"Santa in July" delights children, older adults



PAGE B2
Walk raises \$500 for schools' Exceptional Children's Fund



PAGE A6
Maggie Williams wins scholarship again

Elections board: No decision yet on residency challenge

Jackson claims Brothers doesn't live at Willow Street address

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — The Perquimans County Board of Elections reached no decision following a hearing Thursday, July 22, on a challenge to Connie Brothers' qualification to run for a seat on the Hertford Town Council.



JACKSON

Elections officials explained they have up to 20 days from July 16 — the day Councilman Quentin Jackson filed a challenge alleging Brothers does not live within the town limits and thus is ineligible to seek municipal office in Hertford — to submit a written decision in



BROTHERS

Brothers has not had a valid utility account in her name since 2016.

the matter.

Jackson, who is running for re-election to his seat on the town council in the November election, testified at Thursday's hearing that town records show

He also alleged Brothers is on the list of people who owe significant amounts of money to the town because of unpaid utilities.

There is now an active electricity account at 504 Willow Street, which Brothers claims as her residence, but there is no water and sewer service, Jackson said.

Brothers lives with her mother on Harvey Point Road, Jackson said, adding he has surveillance footage taken over a three-week period that shows her at her

mother's house, not at the Willow Street residence.

Jackson submitted into evidence the video footage he claims he shot as well as documents he said support his claims about utility billing at 504 Willow Street.

Brothers submitted to the elections board utility and medical bills addressed to her at 504 Willow Street, a tax billing sent to that address, and a copy of her

See RESIDENCY, A3

Good recovery



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Chowan field crops agent Matt Leary shows an ear of corn developing well in a field trial in the southern part of the county.

Crops overcome slow, wet start

Too much rain in early spring delayed planting

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

An unusually rainy spring had area farmers calling a lot of audibles when it came to planting dates and field preparation. Even so, farmers and Extension agents say most crops appear to have come through the sluggish start and recovered well.

"Overall it has been a wetter spring than average," said Chowan County field crops agent Matt Leary.

Many fields received too much water in the early spring and a lot of crops were planted later than usual as a result, he said.

But the overall outlook for most field crops right now is good — including the outlook for prices, Leary said.

Soybeans prices especially have improved, he said.

"Overall the prices are better than we have seen the past year or so," Leary said.

The unusually wet early spring affected crops in two main ways, he said. The first is that many crops were planted late because

of heavy rains.

The second is that many plants did not develop a healthy deep root system because they didn't need deep roots in order to find water, he said. So when a dry spell came along in June the plants didn't have the roots they needed to take water from deeper in the ground.

But crops have generally recovered and are doing well, even if some plants are smaller than they typically would be at this time, he said.

Chowan County farmer Jeff Smith agreed with Leary's assessment, noting

that many crops had to be planted two or three times because of heavy rains in the early spring, but now corn, soybeans and other crops mostly look good.

Leary said corn crops especially are looking good.

"Most of the corn is developing ears really well," Leary said. "When you talk to people they seem pretty happy with their corn crop."

Leary said cotton plants look smaller than usual for this time of year, but should recover and be fine, he said. They basically just got

See PLANTING, A3

Sheriff: Bodies of 2 in helicopter crash recovered

Men identified as brothers from Va.; NTSB probing crash

BY JULIAN EURE
The Daily Advance

COLUMBIA — Authorities recovered on July 22 the bodies of two Virginia men who had been missing since their helicopter crashed in the Albemarle Sound several days earlier, the Tyrrell County Sheriff's Office said on Facebook.

The sheriff's post identified the two men as John Arant, 35, and Alan Arant, 36, brothers from Virginia. The post identified Alan Arant as the helicopter's pilot. WDBJ Channel 7 in Roanoke, Virginia, reported the Arants were from Glade Hill, Virginia.

The U.S. Coast Guard had announced earlier on

July 22 that it was suspending its search for the two men following a 38-hour search that spanned 3,303 miles.

The Tyrrell Sheriff's Office said Dare County Emergency Communications was notified on July 19 of an overdue helicopter that was supposed to land in Manteo. The Arant brothers departed from Mecklenburg Brunswick Regional Airport in Broadnax, Virginia, earlier that day and planned to land at the Dare County Regional Airport that evening.

The sheriff said a "concerned friend" lost communication with the two men aboard the Robinson R44 helicopter at 6:40 p.m. Authorities launched a multi-agency search but

See BODIES, A3



REGGIE PONDER/THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Among those staffing a pesticide collection event at Southern States in Hertford on Wednesday, July 21, were (l-r) Jeremy Maciejewski of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Daniel Lilley of Perquimans County Cooperative Extension.

Outdated, unwanted pesticides collected

Extension, NCDA held collection event July 21

BY REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Farmers from across the area unloaded outdated, banned or otherwise unwanted pesticides July 21 as the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Perquimans County Cooperative Extension joined forces in a pesticide collection event in Hertford.

The collection was held at Southern States on Ballhack Road. Adam Richardson, manager of Southern States, said the company made their facility available

for the event as a public service.

Daniel Birch, who works for Smithfield Foods, which operates a grain elevator in Pasquotank County, brought to the site some insecticide that is no longer licensed for use in grain bins.

"I've been trying to get rid of this stuff for about a year now," he said.

Birch said he had worked with Al Wood, a Pasquotank County agricultural Extension agent, to find a disposal site for the chemical. He said he appreciates NCDA making the disposal program available.

See PESTICIDES, A2

New staff named for Perquimans Weekly

White, Beachboard, Alfred to lead weekly newspaper in Hertford

HERTFORD — Perquimans Weekly Publisher Sean O'Brien has named a new management team for the newspaper.

"We are pleased to welcome an experienced and dedicated team to Hertford to lead the Perquimans

Weekly," O'Brien said. "I believe our readers and advertisers will be pleased with the product they see in the coming months."

O'Brien has named veteran newspaper editor Thadd White as Group Editor of the Perquimans Weekly and Chowan Herald. White will be joined by Managing Editor Leslie Beachboard and a staff of reporters and writers.

White has been in the newspaper business for the better part of three decades and has been Editor of the Bertie Ledger-Advance in Windsor for the past nine years. Before that,

he was Managing Editor of the Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald in Ahoskie.

"I have worked in eastern North Carolina all my life, and have been in the newspaper business the vast majority of that time," White said. "I look forward to getting to know the people of Perquimans County better over the coming weeks and months."

See STAFF, A3



WHITE



BEACHBOARD



ALFRED



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